WINCHESTER NEWS
A TRUSTED AND RELIABLE SOURCE OF LOCAL NEWS

Donate

DONATE | NEWS | SPORTS | EVENTS | FEATURES | OPINION | NEWSLETTER | CONTACT | ABOUT

NEWS

10 fun Turkey Day facts for your Thanksgiving table

NELL ESCOBAR COAKLEY | STAFF WRITER

November 28, 2024 . 4:11 PM — 4 min read

On Thursday, Nov. 28, families and friends will gather around the table to celebrate Thanksgiving 2024. COURTESY PHOTO/HISTORY.COM

Happy Thanksgiving! If you're heading out to celebrate with family and friends or even hosting the event yourself, here are 10 fun facts t entertain and wow your guests!

Subscribe

During the autumn of 1621, at least 90 Wampanoag joined 52 English people at what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts, to mark a successful harvest. COURTESY PHOTO/HISTORY.COM

1) The First Thanksgiving was a harvest feast shared by Wampanoag people and the Plymouth colonists in the fall of 1621. The event took place in what is now Plymouth, Mass. and while the term “First Thanksgiving” wasn’t used at the time, it’s how the event is remembered today. There were 142 people at the first Thanksgiving and the meal lasted three entire days!

Subscribe

Christopher Columbus was responsible for introducing molasses to the Americas in 1493, according to molasses maker Grandma's Molasses. COURTESY PHOTO/WIKIPEDIA

2) Colchester, Conn. postponed Thanksgiving in 1705 due to the absence of pumpkin pies. A colder than average winter caused a molasses shortage, which was used as a sweetner for pies.

Why do Californians eat so much turkey? Two reasons: They eat it all year long and they barbecue it more than any other place in the U.S. COURTESY PHOTO/CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

3) California is the U.S state that consumes the most turkey every Thanksgiving. Californians eat about 21 pounds of turkey annually. This is 2 to 3 pounds more than the national average of 17.6 pounds per person.

Subscribe

Turkey is the most favorite dish in the U.S. during the Thanksgiving holiday, but the most often served sides are cranberry sauce, stuffing and mashed potatoes.COURTESY PHOTO/NEW YORK TIMES COOKING

4) The National Turkey Federation estimates 88% of Americans consume turkey each year. Per the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), this translates to more than 46 million turkeys eaten on Thanksgiving.

Subscribe

Winchester also holds a Turkey Trot! COURTESY PHOTO/EN KA SOCIETY

5) The average length of a ‘Turkey Trot’ is about 5 miles.

Subscribe

The 98th Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade will be televised on NBC/Peacock, beginning at 8:30 a.m. COURTESY PHOTO/NEWYORK.COM.AU

6) New York is the first U.S state to adopt Thanksgiving as an annual holiday.

Subscribe

Welcome to Turkey, Texas, one of four places in the U.S. named after turkey! COURTESY PHOTO

7) There are four towns in the U.S. named Turkey: Turkey, Texas; Turkey Creek, La.; Turkey, N.C.; and Turkey Creek, Ariz.

Subscribe

Check out all these countries that celebrate and recognize Thanksgiving. COURTESY PHOTO/OFFICEHOLIDAYS.COM

8) The following countries recognize Thanksgiving as a national holiday: Canada, Grenada, Liberia, Saint Lucia, and the United States

With animal rights activists picketing nearby, President George H.W. Bush quipped "But let me assure you, and this fine tom turkey, that he will not end up on anyone's dinner table, not this guy—he's granted a presidential pardon as of right now — and allow him to live out his days on a children's farm not far from here." COURTESY PHOTO/GEORGE BUSH PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM/NARA

9) George Herbert Walker Bush was the first American president to institute the annual "turkey pardon" at the White House ceremony in 1989. According to the White House Historical Association, it is often stated that Abraham Lincoln's 1863 clemency to a turkey recorded in an 1865 dispatch by White House reporter Noah Brooks was the origin for the pardoning ceremony.

Subscribe

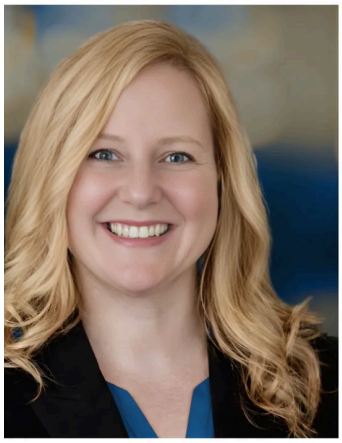
A Butterball operator helps a baffled caller. COURTESY PHOTO/BUTTERBALL BLOG

10) Butterball answers more than 100,000 calls on their "Turkey Talk-Line" every year. To get in touch with a turkey expert, call 1-800-BUTTERBALL or text 844-877-3456. The line is open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 28, 2024.

— Bar None Games

Related

Subscribe



NEWS

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER
March 4, 2026

NEWS

Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

March 4, 2026

NEWS

Winchester gun owners face new training rules starting April 2

Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses

NEWS

Sen. Jason Lewis, Mass. Senate strengthen fair housing protections for rente

The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis: State Sen. Jason Lewis

Subscribe

as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 4, 2026

joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass legislation that protects residents from discrimination in the housing market as the Trump administration abandons its enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. Illegal discrimination continues

March 3, 2026

Latest

PROMOTING HEALTH & EMPOWERMENT
HEAR FROM HIGH SCHOOL LEADERS
LEARN THROUGH INTERACTIVE GAMES
MEET NEW PEOPLE
FREE AND OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY
Middle school & high school students, teachers, parents, friends, community members - come and bring a friend!
FOR MORE INFORMATION:
EMAIL OFFICE@NFSJ.ORG
CALL 781-729-7100
NETWORK for SOCIAL JUSTICE
FROM WINCHESTER AND CHELSEA
GIRL UP
WOMEN IN STEM
GIRLS GOTTA RUN
MIND & MATTER

EVENTS

Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

March 4, 2026

NEWS

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 4, 2026

Subscribe

FEATURES

‘Chicago: Teen Edition’ dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents ‘Syldason: You Are Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

March 4, 2026

WINCHESTER NEWS
A TRUSTED AND RELIABLE SOURCE OF LOCAL NEWS

Subscribe to Winchester News

Subscribe

© 2026 Winchester News Group, Inc. Copying and sharing with permission for non-commercial use only.

Subscribe